

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN JERUSALEM

BULLETIN No. 5

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INTRODUCTION.—This Bulletin contains an account of certain notable discoveries made during 1923 which have resulted in valuable accessions to the Palestine Museum in Jerusalem. A few personal details as to this branch of the Administration may be deemed appropriate. Mr. P. L. O. Guy, who describes the tombs of the Early Iron Age opened by himself on Carmel, is chief Inspector of Antiquities, responsible primarily for the protection of the ancient sites and monuments of Palestine. Dr. Mayer, who describes the discovery of inscribed ossuaries in the Kedron valley, ranks as Assistant Inspector of Antiquities. Being an Arab scholar, *par excellence*, his more immediate duties are concerned with the care of the local antiquities and the maintenance of the historic buildings in the old city of Jerusalem. The very beautiful and interesting sarcophagus described in this Bulletin was safely removed from Tell Barak by collaboration of the Public Works Department and the Palestine railways. The delicate and difficult task of transferring it to the Museum was accomplished under the direct superintendence of Mr. Ory, also Assistant Inspector of the Department. The Junior Inspector, Mr. Makhoully, cleared a number of tombs of the Roman age in the neighbourhood of Acre (at Shefr Amr and El Zib), of which we hope to give an account in a later Bulletin. He has been occupied principally with special inspections in Trans-Jordania.

The Museum in Jerusalem, and the local museums of Acre, Ascalon, Caesarea, etc., are the creation of the Department, and until now have been under the direct control of Mr. W. J. Phythian-Adams, M.A. Unfortunately it has been found necessary, for the time being, to suspend the post of Keeper of Museums; the duties will be distributed among the personnel.

The organization and direction of the Department of Antiquities was entrusted at the outset, in July, 1920, to the Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (Professor J. Garstang, M.A., D.Sc., F.S.A.), an arrangement which has worked happily enough for both sides ever since the initial difficulties were overcome.

MT. CARMEL

AN EARLY IRON AGE CEMETERY NEAR HAIFA, EXCAVATED SEPTEMBER, 1922

[P.E.F. 1" Map Sheet V. Kh.]

With Plates I, II, III

P. L. O. GUY

SITE. The cemetery lies about 100 metres above sea-level on the N.E. slope of Mount Carmel (Photo. I): Modern Haifa, to the N.W., is close enough for people at the station there to be plainly seen with the naked eye, and the town will probably extend within the next few years so as to include the site. A new road up the hill has already been made which passes only

a few metres above the tombs and it is, therefore, most opportune that Mr. Aziz Khayat, who owns the property, was good enough to provide the funds which enabled Mr. G. M. FitzGerald and myself to undertake the work which is here described.

CONNEXIONS. From the site one has a fine view to the North and East, across the Bay and Plain of Acre, to the hills beyond, with the Kishon running into the sea at the near end of the bay. About a kilometre distant and just this side of the Kishon lies Tell Abu Huwam with which one is inclined to connect the tombs. It must originally have been situated on the coast at the point where the mouth of the Kishon would form a small harbour, and have commanded the road along the shore towards Acre as well as that which still leads inland to the Plain of Esdraelon. To-day, however, the sand, and the alluvium from the river, have silted up the bay (in 1922-23 the coast-line advanced some 15 metres seaward), and the Acre road now runs along the beach nearly two kilometres north of the Tell.

Pottery fragments from the Tell itself range from Cypriote wish-bone-handle milk-bowls to terra sigillata, while Mycenaean and Early Iron Age Cypriote specimens give evidence of intermediate foreign relations.

GROUND. The hillside where the tombs are cut is steep and irregular. It is composed of a white limestone of very varying hardness: in some places it is hard enough to be worth quarrying to-day; in others it is virtually a marl. The soil is red and, where there is enough of it, allows olives and carob to be grown, but the vegetation which is most luxuriant is a thorny scrub.

DISPOSITION. The tombs have their entrances at such points as the rock offers a more or less vertical surface about a metre in height. No special orientation is noticeable in the tombs, in the graves which they contain, or in the disposition of the bodies in those graves; a marked instance of the two latter points being found in tomb I. The distance between the tombs seems to have been governed merely by the suitability of the rock. Generally, once the face of this has been pierced, it is soft and easily worked, all the tombs except No. V being roughly hacked out and having no tool-marks visible. In some cases large lumps of stone have fallen or are ready to fall from the roof. Because of this, and also because they seemed unproductive, Tombs III and VI were abandoned before their excavation was completed.

CONDITION. Tombs I and VII could easily be entered, and presented the appearance of small caves with an earth floor. They did not look as if they contained anything in particular, but it is worth noting that it was in these two tombs, and probably for this very reason, that the best groups of pottery were found.

The other tombs were filled almost to the roof with debris and presented a more hopeful appearance than those which actually proved to be the most productive.

All tombs had been disturbed, probably at an early date, but the looters, whether men after gold or beasts after a meal, had not concerned themselves with pottery—at least in the cases of Tombs I and VII—except to break it.

TOMB I. Photo 2 (Pl. I). Plan 1 (Pl. II).

Floor to roof before excavation *circa* 1.20 m.: after excavation *circa* 1.55 m.

Excavated floor *circa* 0.90 m. below outside ground level at entrance.

GRAVE A. *Circa* 0.55 m. deep. Two full-length burials, feet towards the entrance. They had been disturbed in antiquity and only a fragment of the skull of one person and part of the feet and legs of the other showed their position. They appear to have been covered with rough stones of about 20 centimetres in diameter.

The lamps were found about the middle of the bodies; the small jugs near the heads. A number of pottery fragments were found in the filling but no shapes could be completed.

POTTERY. Pot 1 (Pl. II). Buff paste with white particles and brown. Exterior and top centimetre of interior have a good pinkish wash with traces of burnishing. Below the handle is an incised mark.

Pot 2 (Pl. II). Lamp. Pinkish-brown paste, rather coarse. Finish good inside but rough outside.

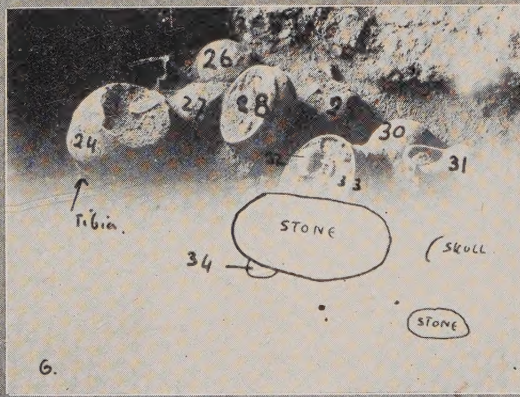
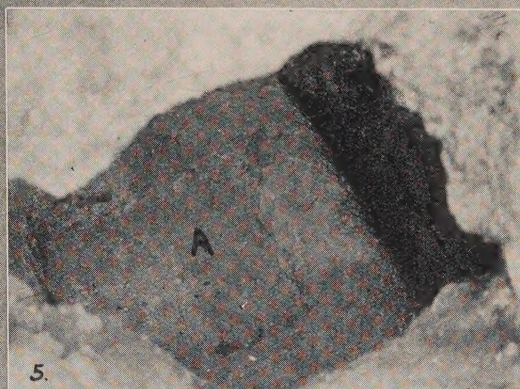
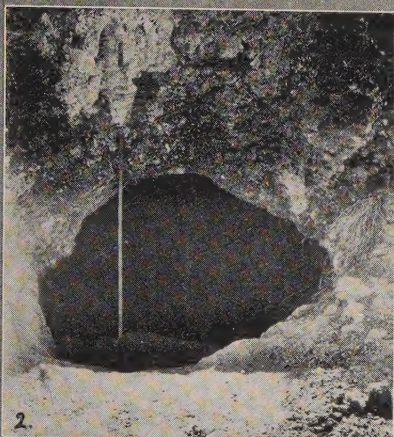
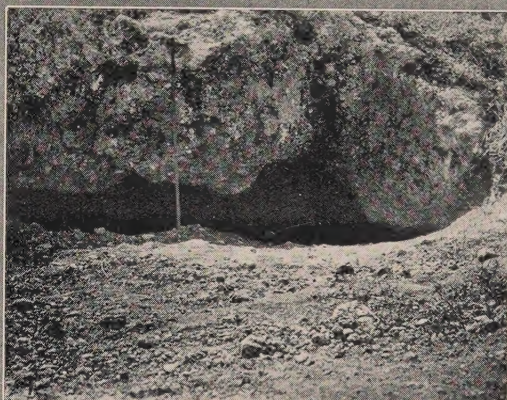
Pot 3 (Pl. II). Lamp. Similar to Pot 2 but slightly larger.

Pot 4 (Pl. II). Yellowish-buff paste, finely levigated. Outside plain, inside a dark red wash. Well made.

Pot 5 (Pl. II). Similar to Pot 1 but has three bands of brownish-black paint as shown.

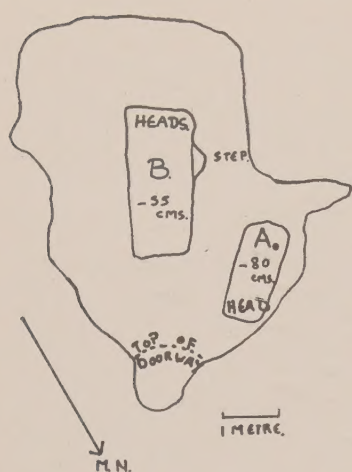
Pot 6 (Pl. II). Reddish-buff paste, rather coarse, with slip of the same. Roughly hand-made.

Pot 7. Similar to Pot 6, but slightly larger. No slip.



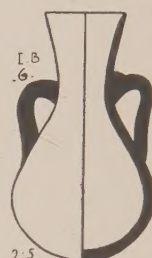
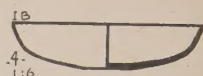
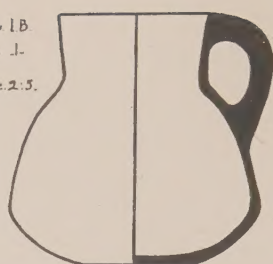
MT. CARMEL: TOMBS EXCAVATED ON THE N.E. SLOPES NEAR HAIFA, 1923

1. GENERAL VIEW OF HILLSIDE FROM S.E.
2. TOMB NO. I. ENTRANCE FROM N.
3. TOMB NO. II. ENTRANCE FROM N.E.
4. TOMB NO. IV. ENTRANCE FROM E., SHOWING ROCK BROKEN AWAY.
5. IBID. GRAVES A AND B.
6. TOMB NO. VII. DISPOSITION OF POTTERY AND OTHER REMAINS.

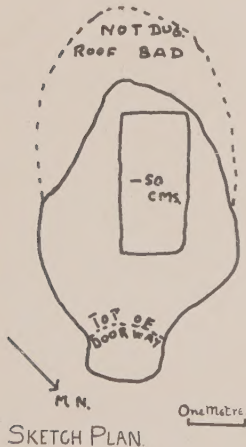


TOMB N° I. SKETCH PLAN.

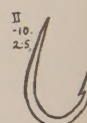
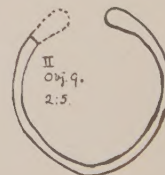
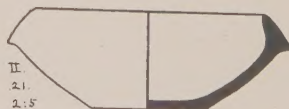
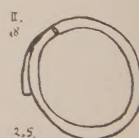
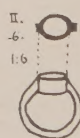
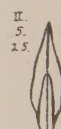
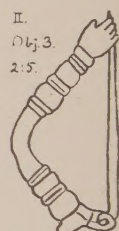
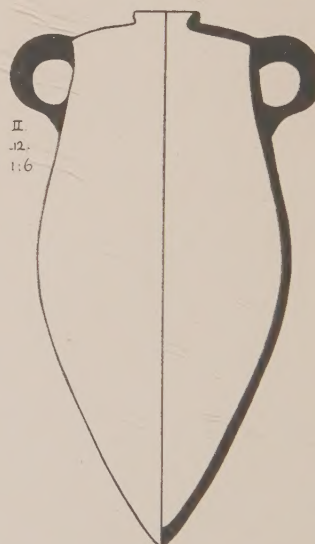
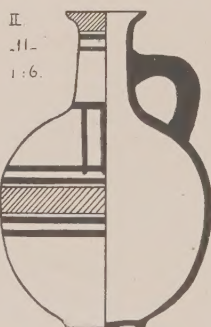
Tomb I.B.
Pot. 1.
Scale 2:5.



TOMB N° II



SKETCH PLAN.



MT. CARMEL, TOMBS I AND II: SKETCH PLANS, POTTERY VASES AND VARIOUS METAL OBJECTS.

(THE REFERENCE NUMBERS ARE TAKEN FROM THE FIELD-BOOKS AND ARE RETAINED IN THE LETTERPRESS.)

Pot 8 (Pl. II). Finely levigated salmon-pink paste, burnished. Decoration in blackish-brown. The group of three concentric circles shown on the side are actually opposite to the handle which is also blackish-brown. Very well made.

Pot 9. Similar in shape to Pot 8 but slightly larger, and lighter in colour: the paste is more porous. Instead of a group of three concentric circles there is a group of four in the same position as in Pot 8.

Pot 10. Similar in shape and fabric to Pot 8, but larger than Pot 9. There are two groups of three concentric circles opposite to the handle.

Small Finds. Object 1. A much worn fragment of a blue glaze bead with incised criss-cross pattern.

Object 2 (Pl. II). A much worn blue glaze cylindrical bead, ribbed.

GRAVE B. A single full-length burial, head towards the entrance. Much disturbed: few bones and pottery fragments. Body originally covered with rough stones rather smaller than those in grave A.

TOMB II. Photo 3 (Pl. I). Plan (Pl. II).

Floor to roof after excavation *circa* 1.90 m.

Excavated floor *circa* 1 m. below outside ground level at entrance.

GRAVE. *Circa* 0.50 m. deep. One full-length burial, feet towards entrance. Few bones remaining. Pottery and other objects found indiscriminately throughout filling.

POTTERY. Pot 11 (Pl. II). Reddish-buff paste, blackish-grey inside, fairly coarse. Rough slip of the same. Decoration, black and red bands; black shown solid, and red by single hatching. A well-turned pot.

Pot 12 (Pl. II). Reddish-buff paste, fairly coarse. Handles rough, but workmanship otherwise good. Contained few fragments of bones.

Pot 13. Similar in all respects to Pot 12.

Pot 14 (Pl. II). Rather coarse buff paste with many white particles. Much decayed at base because of being lightly fired. Reddish wash inside and out with traces of rough ring-burnishing on upright part of exterior. Distorted during firing.

Pot 15. Fragments only. Similar to Pot 11, but has two sets of three black rings each round body.

Pot 16. Fragments only. Similar to Pot 4.

Pot 17. Similar to Pot 10, but has no group of concentric circles opposite to handle.

Pot 18. Fragment only. Similar to Pot 9.

Pot 19 (Pl. II). Similar to Pot 2, but paste coarser, redder and with many white particles.

Pot 19a. Lamp. Similar to Pot 19, but rim slightly more pronounced.

Pot 19b. Lamp. Similar to Pot 19, but paste rather finer.

Pot 20. Shallower than Pot 2, but similar. Paste buff and very porous.

Pot 21 (Pl. II). Fairly fine buff paste. Red wash round rim. Fair workmanship.

Pot 22 (Pl. II). Fragments only. Apparently similar in shape and paste to Pot 11. Decoration in black and red as shown.

Small Finds. Object 3 (Pl. II). Bronze fibula. Heavy single wire with thicker rings round either end. Spring formed of a triple twist of wire which continues as the pin. Clasp in shape of a right hand half-closed.

Object 4 (Pl. II). Bronze finger-ring. Wire twist round wire core.

Object 5 (Pl. II). Bronze arrowhead. Triangular, with remains of socket. Cf. similar arrowheads found at Carchemish and dated to reign of Pharaoh Necho. (Carchemish, Part II, Plate 22b)

Object 6 (Pl. II). Bronze finger-ring with plain blue paste bezel, probably pivoted.

Object 7 (Pl. II). Bronze ring. Plain. Ends overlap for .009 m. but are not welded.

Object 8 (Pl. II). Bronze bangle. Plain. Ends overlap for .029 m. but are not welded.

Object 9 (Pl. II). Bronze bangle with knob at each end.

Object 10 (Pl. II). Bronze fish-hook.

TOMB III. Entrance *circa* 1.50 m. wide and 1.05 high.

When this tomb had been excavated for a distance of some 2.5 m. from the entrance the roof became dangerous and as nothing of importance was being found work was stopped.

Small Finds. A boar's tusk. The bones and skulls of two small animals which had probably died in the tomb after having used it as a lair. A few indeterminate sherds of pottery. The neck of a Roman glass bottle (near entrance and probably intrusive).

TOMB IV. Photos 4 and 5 (Pl. I). Plan (Pl. III).

Floor to roof after excavation *circa* 1.50 m.

Excavated floor *circa* 1.30 m. below outside ground level at entrance. To the N.W. of the entrance a smooth face had been cut in the rock outside the tomb: this was almost certainly later than the tomb itself. To the S.E. of the entrance the rock had been broken away.

Both graves had been thoroughly looted in antiquity, and only a very few Iron Age sherds were found in and near them. Outside the graves themselves and near the entrance were found:

Object 11. Bronze bangle, plain, the ends of which overlap for .009 m., but are not welded.

Object 12. Fragments of iron, apparently part of a horse or donkey shoe.

Grave A can only have contained a contracted burial or perhaps one or two small children.

TOMB V. Plan and Elevation (Pl. III).

This was an isolated tomb about a hundred metres to the N.W. of the others. It had its shaft cut through hard limestone, and in the shaft were footholds on the N.W. and S.E. sides. Below the shaft the chamber is partly artificial and partly a natural fault.

A few animal bones were found but no human remains, and the only pottery was three or four small ribbed Byzantine sherds. The rock cutting was very good, the sides of the shaft being quite smooth, with no signs of tool-marks.

TOMB VI.

A large fall of rock shortly after digging had been begun made further excavation impossible with the tools available. This tomb was, therefore, abandoned.

TOMB VII. Photo 6 (Pl. I). Plan and Elevation (Pl. III).

Floor to roof before excavation *circa* 1.10 m.

Floor to roof after excavation 1.25 m.

Excavated floor *circa* 0.60 m. below outside ground level at entrance.

GRAVE. Though there was little earth over the pots it was rammed pretty hard and excavation of the objects was not easy. From the general appearance of things it would seem as if this was an example of a contracted burial unless, indeed, the body had originally been laid at full length along the N.W. side of the grave, feet towards the entrance, and been covered with stones. If this had been so it would appear that looters had moved all the stones except two, taken all jewellery and metal objects—for of these no trace was found—and left the body at the mercy of beasts which afterwards came in and ate all of it except the fragment of skull sketched in photo. 7, and a fragment of tibia found below Pot 24.

It is even possible that there were two burials, one of the Bronze Age as indicated by the fragments of bil-bil (Pot 43), and the other of the early Iron Age, the former having been only summarily cleared out before the tomb was used for the latter. Perhaps, however, we have here a single burial of the transition period, between Iron and Bronze. The copying of foreign models by local potters in local clay is a point worthy of note.

POTTERY. Pot 23 (Pl. III). Brownish paste, fairly fine, with fine red wash turning in places to brown. Surface polished.

Pot 24 (Pl. III). Medium pinkish-buff paste. Slightly warped in firing.

Pot 25 (Pl. III). Paste very similar to that of Pot 24.

Pot 26. Very porous and friable pinkish-buff paste. Similar in form to Pot 19, but rim rather more developed and lamp altogether somewhat larger.

Pot 27 (Pl. III). Finely levigated buff paste with slip of the same. Burnished. Decoration, rim red (single hatching), black rings round neck.

Pot 28 (Pl. III). Medium yellowish-buff paste. Slightly warped in firing; cf. Pot 24.

Pot 29. Similar to Pot 23 but larger. Diameter 18 cms.

Pot 30 (Pl. III). Medium yellowish-buff paste. Decoration, three bands of black faintly visible round body. Slightly pinched lip.

Pot 31 (Pl. III). Fairly fine brownish paste with fine red wash. Surface polished, cf. Pot 23. Lip pinched.

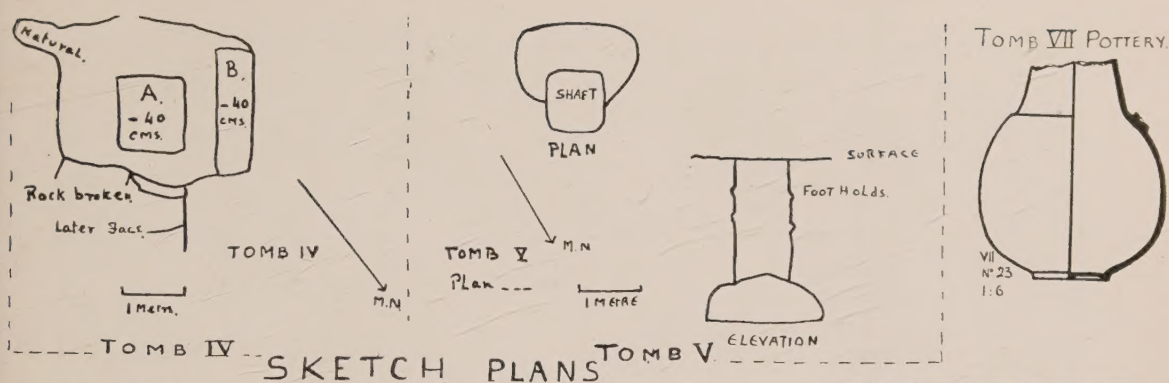
Pot 32 (Pl. III). Ware and finish similar to those of Pot 8. Slightly pinched lip.

Pot 33 (Pl. III). Ware and finish similar to those of Pot 8. A very fine pot.

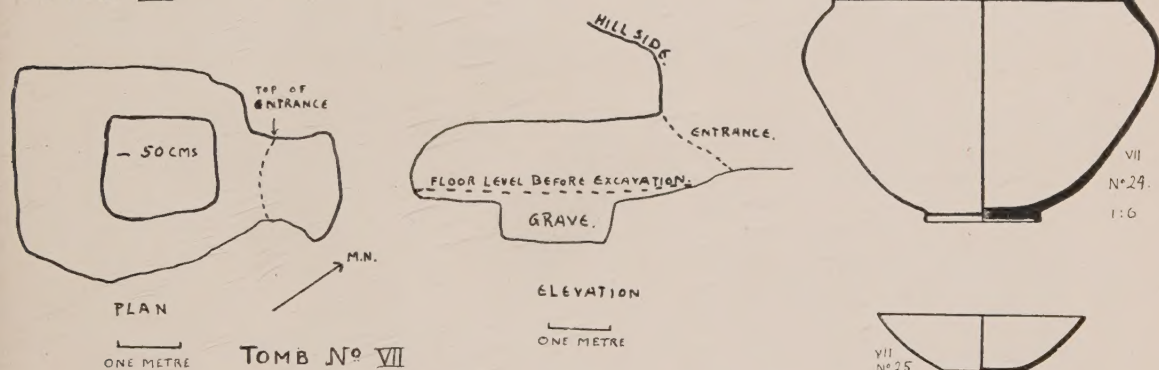
Pot 34. Similar in form to Pot 25, but ware somewhat coarser.

Pot 35. Similar in form to Pot 25, but rim slightly incurved. Ware more like that of Pot 34.

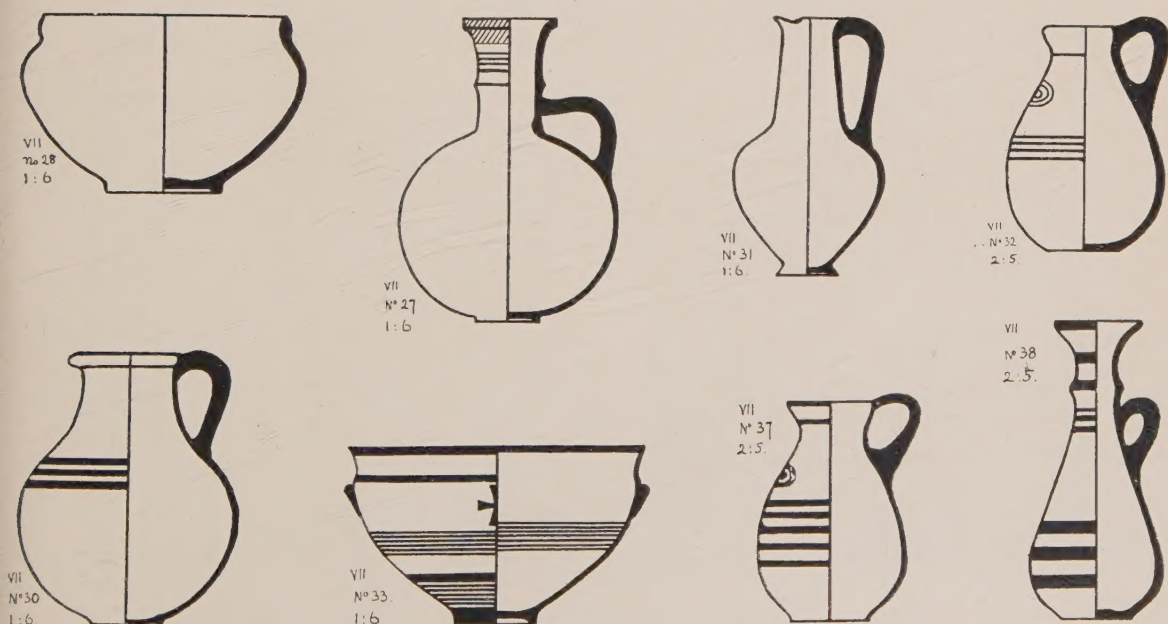
Pot 36. Similar in form and ware to Pot 27, but slightly smaller.



TOMB VII



POTTERY VASES : TOMB VII.





TELL BARAK, NEAR CAESAREA : RELIEFS DECORATING MARBLE SARCOPHAGUS OF THE ROMAN AGE

Pot 37 (Pl. III). Ware not unlike that of pot 32, but more porous and without polish. Decoration coarser. Probably local imitation of Cypriote model.

Pot 38 (Pl. III). Ware and technique similar to those of Pot 37.

Pot 39. Similar in ware and technique to Pot 37; in shape, size and decoration similar to Pot 8, but the neck is thicker and the Pot less elegant.

Pot 40. Identical with Pot 39.

Pot 41. Similar in all respects to Pot 8.

Pot 42. Similar to Pot 8, but is larger (height 9.6 cms.), and has two groups of three concentric circles opposite to handle.

Pot 43. Fragments of black Cypriote bil-bil.

P.L.O.G.

NOTE ON A SCULPTURED MARBLE SARCOPHAGUS FROM CAESAREA

With Plate IV

Tell Barak, the site of this discovery, is a small mound rising above the marshes of the Zerka about six miles inland from the harbour of Caesarea, in a direction just N. of E. It is in fact almost at the foot of the southern end of the bluff on which stands the prosperous colony of Zimmarin, and about one mile only from the old Roman theatre at Shuni-Mamas (? old Maiumas). The sarcophagus, when first seen by an Inspector of Antiquities, was protruding from the debris of a masoned chamber, which on excavation proved to have suffered so much damage from illicit stone digging, that no adequate reproduction of its appearance can be attempted. The few courses of masonry preserved were quite plain; the floor space was about twice that taken up by the sarcophagus, which fitted closely to the wall on the side of the Griffon-decoration (No. 2 in Plate IV, called hereafter the Reverse side). Fortunately the sarcophagus itself had only been damaged at the exposed end, the rest being tightly embedded in marl and debris, in the relatively narrow space between its sides and the walls.

The most conspicuous and most attractive feature of the decoration is that of the front side (Pl. IV, i) whereon is depicted in spirited high relief the traditional theme of combat between Greeks and Amazons. Comparison with other examples, especially those from Sidon and from Xanthus in the British Museum and that from Salonica in Louvre, leaves little doubt as to the date of this sarcophagus, which must be attributed to the age of the Antonines or just later, in the second century of our era. It may thus indicate the burial place of the Roman procurators or other high functionaries of the period, whose residence and centre of administration was in Caesarea. Mr. Arthur Smith points out that the subsidiary decoration (as seen in the upper and lower borders) is of a style that was fully developed during the Antonine period.

In regard to the treatment of the main subject, which owing to its unique preservation may be studied in detail, the fulness in design and certain conventions corroborate the relatively late date; while the movement and life of the whole, and the individual treatment of each head and face, every one a masterpiece of sculpture, reveal the survival of Greek spirit and probably indicate Greek craftsmanship. On the other hand, conventionalism is traceable in certain details, while certain groups or motives were already standardized, appearing in other and different contexts. Thus the composition of the warrior figure (first from the left hand) who is about to transfix a kneeling Amazon whose hair also he grasps, includes a forced and almost impossible position of the left foreleg, which is pressed up hard against the thigh and buttock, as in an action of supreme effort or strain not called for by the circumstances. This is explained, as M. Dussaud points out, by examination of the parallel scene from Salonica, where the leg is naturally so drawn in the case of a warrior fallen on his left knee. From this figure is clearly derived the effective but erroneous treatment of the left leg in this case. In the same scene is found the *motif* of horse with returned head and neck, which forms a conspicuous feature of the present design.

The pair of gryphons in 'heraldic' attitude on the Reverse of the sarcophagus (Pl. IV, ii) has doubtless a very ancient origin, which in Asia Minor may prove to have its prototype in Hittite art, and to have had a mythological significance which in the age in question had long disappeared. The same theme, with difference of treatment, occurs on both the Lycian and the Salonica sarcophagi.

The subjects treated on the ends of the coffin are further illustration of the standardized patterns of these decorations, especially that (IV, iii) in which the Amazon theme is resumed by a regrouping of the now familiar attitudes. The opposite end, which was in the obscurity of the burial chamber, has never been completed with the same detail, and the drawing is bad, though the composition is perhaps easier and less conventional. Noticeably no Amazons appear in this scene, which has, however, its prototypes in other cases.

Doubtless much that is of interest will transpire in the course of further discussion of these sculptures by students of Graeco-Roman Art. Already Mr. Arthur Smith, keeper of the Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum, has made a special communication to the British School at Rome on the subject; to him and to M. Dussaud (Conservateur in the Louvre Museum) we are indebted for illuminative memoranda. M. Theodore Reinach also communicated a note on the discovery to '*Beaux-Arts*' No. 2 (Jan. 1924).

A TOMB IN THE KEDRON VALLEY CONTAINING OSSUARIES WITH HEBREW GRAFFITI NAMES

With Plates V, VI.

L. A. MAYER, PH.D.

The tomb is situated in the lower Kedron Valley, on the right slope of the mountain, about fifteen minutes' walk from 'En Rogel. It consists of a central vestibule and two small chambers, one of which contained ossuaries, the other one—scattered bones. Two entrances lead apparently to this vestibule. No objects, other than ossuaries, have been found in this cave.

The entrance door of this cave was originally approached through a small porch, the traces of which are still visible in the rock. The door (55 cm. high $\times$ 47 cm. broad) has as its only ornamentation a grooving 10 cm. high and 8 cm. deep. The door slants slightly towards the main room, called in contemporary Hebrew *hāṣēr*, the courtyard. This vestibule is almost square (315 cm. $\times$ 330 $\times$ 309 $\times$ 345), entirely cut out of the rock, with a ceiling rising from a height of 160 cm. at the entrance-wall to 210 cm. on the opposite side. The N.W. wall is interrupted by a door (65 cm. high $\times$ 40 cm. broad) with a grooving (12 cm. high and 18 cm. deep) leading outside. At the end of the same wall is a niche (181 cm. high $\times$ 120 cm. broad $\times$ 70 cm. deep), partly cut in the rock and partly constructed of masonry in a typical false vault. The niche is closed towards the room by a slab of stone forming a receptacle 53 cm. deep.

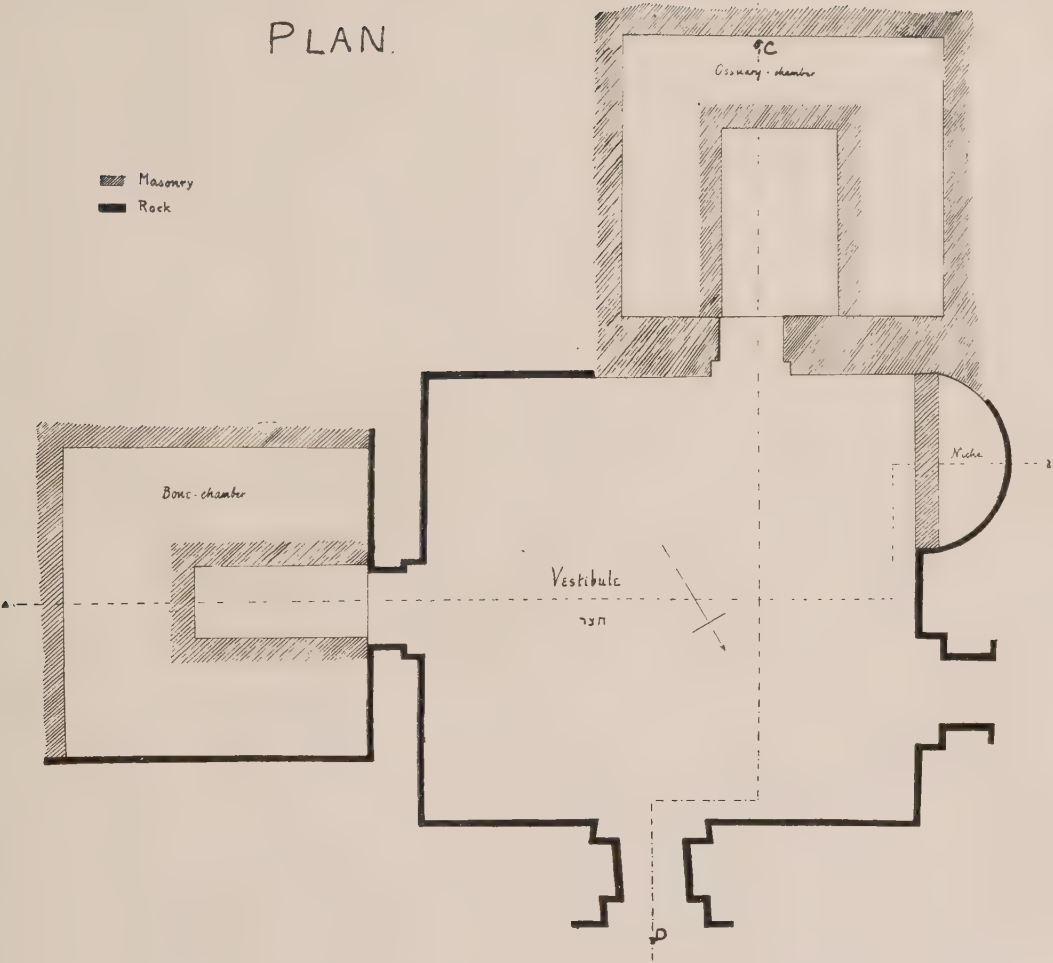
The rock of the S.W. wall, opposite the main entrance-door, has been cut away at a length of 215 cm. and replaced by a wall built of stones, rusticated in Herodian style, with rough centres and irregular, almost smooth margins. Through a small door (51 cm. high $\times$ 42 cm. broad $\times$ 32.5 cm. deep) cut through two layers of stones, one descends to a rectangular ossuary-chamber, cut in the rock, but entirely lined with masonry. A bench (55 cm. high $\times$ 71 cm. broad) runs along three walls of this chamber leaving a narrow space for the men bringing in the ossuaries. The benches were filled with earth and lined with cut stones. In a few places I found remains of cement over the masonry of the benches. The ossuaries were arranged on the benches one above the other, with the greatest possible economy of space.

The second chamber shows a very similar arrangement. It consists also of a U-shaped bench, and its walls are likewise partly lined with masonry. The complete absence of ossuaries and the various groups of bones found on the benches prove that one used to deposit the dead in this room until the flesh decayed and the bones could be collected and put into the ossuaries.

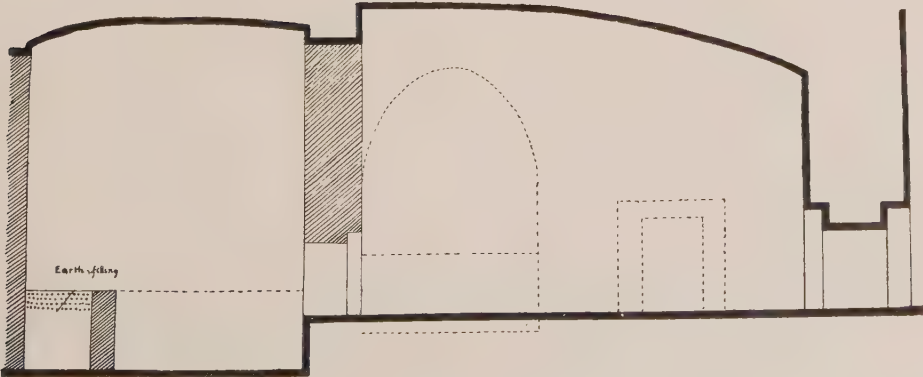
Lining with masonry and built walls occur only in one of the hitherto published tomb-caves of Palestine. (Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches*, II, p. 341 ff.)

INSCRIPTIONS. Thirteen of these nineteen ossuaries are inscribed. The inscriptions contain generally the names of the buried ones only, sometimes the name of the father is added (Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9) or in the case of married women (Nos. 8, 13) the name of their husbands. The

PLAN.



SECTION C-D.



JERUSALEM : PLAN AND SECTION OF TOMB CHAMBERS, KEDRON VALLEY

[SCALE 1 : 50 NEARLY]

No. 1 -

n^o. 1 -
אבות
שבע ונסכא
וחן ספב רח

n. 7.

707 / 170473171

n° 8.-

no 8.-
שלום
אדא

Nº 2

№ 2

n° 9

מלך בת גור

 $n \cdot 10^{-}$

n. 10 -

A sketch of a stylized, abstract figure, possibly a person or a stylized letter, drawn with simple lines. The figure has a rectangular body, a small head, and a long, thin, curved tail or leg extending downwards and to the right. The drawing is done in a simple, sketchy style with some internal lines suggesting form.

n. 3.-

א' כ' ע' ו' ב' ח
א' כ' ע' ו' ב' ח

nº 11.-

20 11-
CALU
MH

no 45

№ 4-
70/н 71х/11

n° 12 -

אלעזר
n. 12 -

no 5:-

no 5-
אלאין

n° 13 -

אלום אשתא לעזר

n. 6.

א. ז. ק. ו. א. ב. ז.

№ 14

JERUSALEM : GRAFFITI NAMES ON OSSUARIES FROM A TOMB IN THE KEDRON VALLEY

[FACSIMILE COPIES, SCALE 1 : 3 NEARLY]

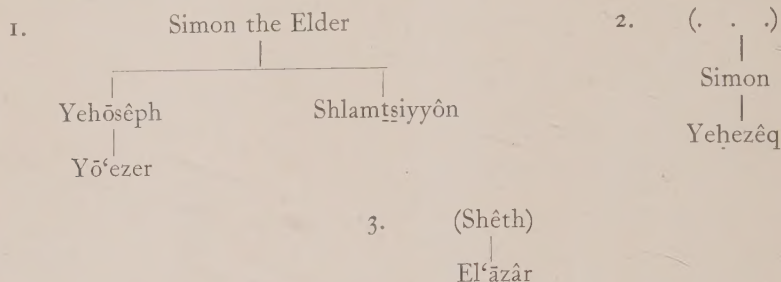
inscriptions are in Hebrew (Nos. 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13) or Aramaic (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14), only one female name is given in Greek also (No. 11). The texts are as follows:—

- 1 אבונה שמעון סבא יהוסף ברה
- 2 יהוסף
- 3 שלמציין ברת שמעון
- 4 יועזר בר [?] יהוסף
- 5 אלעזר בן שת
- 6 שמעון בר
- 7 יחזק בר שמעון
- 8 שלום אשת יה[ו]דה
- 9 שלון בת ליעזר
- 10 שלום
- 11 CAΛΩMH
- 12 אלעזר
- 13 שלום אשת אלעזר
- 14 אמא

1. 'Our father Simon the Elder (or: the Scholar), Yehōsēph his son.' This text could be taken as a funerary inscription for both, father and son, but an examination of the bones proved that they belong to one person only. The whole inscription being incised by one person at one time, it is inadmissible also to assume that the bones of Simon have been removed in order to make place for Yehōsēph. Cf. for an analogous case Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, II, p. 196 f., for two names on one ossuary cf. (among others) *ib.*, p. 197; *Revue Biblique*, 1904, p. 262 f.; Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches*, I, p. 441; Thomsen, *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereines*, XLIV, pp. 115-120.
2. 'Yehōsēph.' Probably the same as the one mentioned in No. 1.
3. 'Shelamtziyyōn the daughter of Simon.' Although it is impossible to state exactly which Simon is meant, palaeographical evidence is in favour of No. 1.
4. 'Yō'ezzer the son of Yehōsēph,' and, therefore, the grandson of No. 1.
5. 'El'āzār the son of Shēth.' This very rare name occurs only in Josephus, *Antiquities*, XVIII. 26 (ed. Niese IV, p. 144).
6. 'Simon the son of . . .'
7. 'Yehezēq the son of Simon,' on palaeographical reasons rather the son of No. 6 than of No. 1. Yehezēq as a short form for Yehezqēl occurs a few times on ossuaries, e.g., in the Qallōn-family.
8. 'Shālōm the wife of Yehūdā.' This inscription is twice repeated on this ossuary. In the second inscription Yehūdā is written very distinctly with a 'waw.'
9. 'Shallūn the daughter of Lī'ezzer.' Shallūn occurs in the Bible only as a masculine name (Nehem. 3, 1).
10. 'Shālōm.' The Greek transcription (No. 11) proves that Clermont-Ganneau was right identifying 'Salome' with 'Shālōm,' instead of Shelōmīth or the like.
12. 'El'āzār.'
13. 'Shālōm the wife of El'āzār.' Probably of the foregoing and not of No. 5.

14. Either 'Ammā' or 'Immā.' The first reading is suggested by the Judaeo-Greek name *Αμμη*. The second one can be compared with 'Immā Shālôm,' the famous wife of Rabbi Elī'ezer, although 'Immā' can mean simply 'mother' like 'Μητερα' on an ossuary found near Jerusalem (Thomsen, *ZDPV.*, XLIV, p. 111).

With the exception of Shêth, Shallûn and Ammā which appear here for the first time in Hebrew epigraphy, all the names are very common and known as names of High Priests of the Second Temple. We can trace three branches of the genealogical tree of this family, equal at least to five generations :—

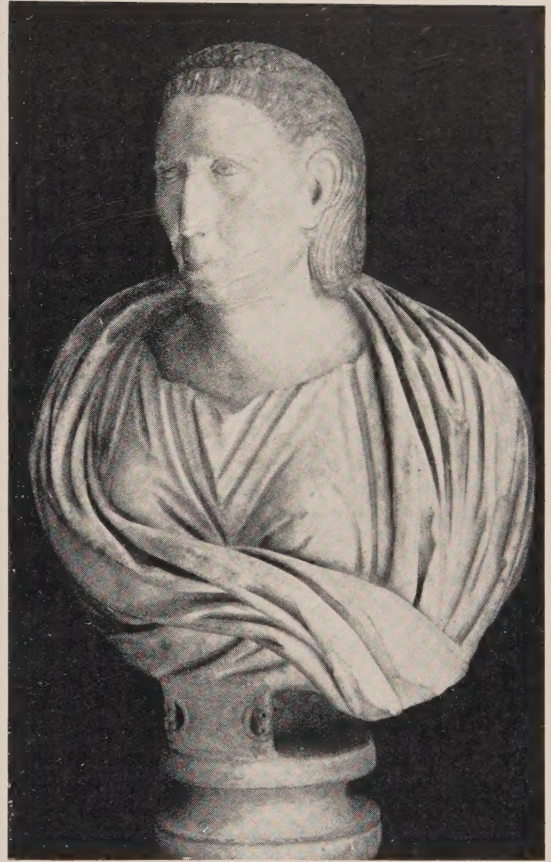


CATALOGUE OF THE OSSUARIES.

1. Limestone ossuary with semi-circular lid, 75 cm. long × 35 cm. broad × 38.5 high (58 cm. with the lid). Two rosettes in relief on the longside, one on each broad side. Inscription No. 1.
2. Limestone ossuary with gable lid, 72.5 × 35.5 × 41 (58). Two rosettes in relief on the long side, one on each broad side, two paterae on the lid. Inscription No. 13.
3. Limestone ossuary, with gable lid, 80 × 39.5 × 42 (71). One wreath on each broad side of the ossuary, palmettes on the broad sides of the lid.
4. Chalk ossuary, with semi-circular lid, 65 × 28.5 × 37 (52). Two rosettes of 21 points. Traces of red paint. Inscription No. 2.
5. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 72 × 31.5 × 40 (42). Two incised rosettes of 21 points, traces of red paint. Inscription No. 7.
6. Chalk ossuary, with gable lid, 56 × 28 × 31 (43). Inscription No. 3.
7. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 85 × 27 × 38 (41). Two big rosettes with small ones inside, between them an incised rosette of 6 points. Traces of yellow paint. Inscription No. 4.
8. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid painted red, 62 × 28.5 × 36. Pattern of incised lozenges (unique). Inscription No. 5.
9. Chalk ossuary, with semi-circular lid, 60 × 23 × 30 (41).
10. Chalk ossuary, with gable lid, 59 × 25 × 33 (45).
11. Chalk ossuary, with semi-circular lid, 75 × 29.5 × 41 (53.5). Small rosettes of 6 points inside big ones of 18 points. Inscription No. 6.
12. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 53 × 21.5 × 36 (37). Two rosettes of 6 points and two of 3 points each.
13. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 56 × 25.5 × 36 (37). Two rosettes. Inscription No. 8.
14. Chalk ossuary, with semi-circular lid, 64 × 28 × 32 (45). Two rosettes of 6 points.
15. Chalk ossuary, with semi-circular lid, 61 × 26 × 31 (40.5). Two rosettes of 6 points. Traces of red paint. Inscription No. 9.
16. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 43 × 24.5 × 30. Inscriptions Nos. 10 and 11.
17. Chalk ossuary, with gable lid, 68 × 27.5 × 36 (49). Inscription No. 12.
18. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 52 × 23 × 31. Inscription No. 14.
19. Chalk ossuary, with flat lid, 60 × 26 × 30.5.



MERCURY. ROMAN SCULPTURE PROBABLY FROM ASCALON. 2ND CENTURY. HEIGHT 84 CMS.



PORTRAIT OF A SYRIAN PRINCESS. 4TH CENTURY : FROM GAZA OR ASCALON. HEIGHT 76 CMS.

CLASSICAL SCULPTURES IN THE PALESTINE MUSEUM : JERUSALEM

The Palestine Museum is organized and administered by the Department of Antiquities ; in it are the more perishable moveable antiquities of the country. It is open daily to the public without charge. There are special catalogues.

The objects exhibited are derived partly from an older Turkish collection of antiquities, and partly from the important excavations at Beisan, Ascalon and elsewhere which have been carried out during recent years by permit of the Department. Some few objects (including the two sculptures here illustrated) have been acquired by purchase on account of their special local interest. The very complete series of Palestinian coins, including the whole collection of the late Dr. Raffaeli, has been acquired in this way. The Roman and Byzantine jewellery was presented by a lady resident in Haifa.

NOTES AND NEWS :

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

The Department of Antiquities for Palestine is preoccupied with repairs essential to the South Tower and West Gallery in the Citadel of Jerusalem, in which serious structural defects have been developing over a number of years and are now critical. Meanwhile it is expected that the repairs already commenced in co-operation with the Waqf authority to the tower of the white mosque at Ramleh will be continued. Should funds permit, further work of conservation will be undertaken in the Crusaders buildings of Acre and Athlit, while special attention is being given to the Phoenician tombs and other points of interest at Beit Jibrin, with a view to making these places more interesting and accessible to visitors.

By invitation of the Department excavations have commenced on the site of Mt. Ophel. From October, 1923, to April, 1924, M. R. Weill (directing the expedition organised by the Baron E. de Rothschild), explored the southern point of the hill. In spite of the destruction caused by the Roman quarries in the second century A.D., he has been able to find (i) traces of sub-structures dating from before the Exile; (ii) further water channels through the living rock; (iii) some remains of the successive ramparts from the Jebusite period down to the Byzantine restoration (c.450). Higher up the slope the work conducted by Professor MacAlister for the Palestine Exploration Fund has determined the original limits and later developments of the acropolis, disclosing, (iv) a rampart running East and West, protected by an artificial fosse, of a period between the Neolithic and the end of the early Bronze Age; (v) Partial extensions in the north-west angle, of the middle Bronze Age; (vi) considerable extensions during the later Bronze Age, including a stout rampart with glacis on the brink of the Kidron valley; (vii) a small grotto on the edge of the original fosse, known to contain remains of the early Bronze Age. (L.H.V.)

The American School of Archaeology, in March and April, organised an expedition to Moab and the Dead Sea Valley. A number of archaeological, epigraphic and topographical discoveries were made, and considerable material was brought back for study. The most remarkable find was a large fortress and open-air shrine of the early Bronze Age at Bab ed-Dra, near Mezra'ah. New light on the vexed subject of the Cities of the Plain is to be anticipated. During the first half of April the School made a rapid archaeological survey of the southern Shepelah and the eastern Negeb, which also resulted in new archaeological and epigraphical discoveries. It is probable that the topography of this region will require revision in consequence. The School is also about to resume its investigation of some tumuli near Malhah, interrupted last Spring. The potsherds found in the course of the work show that these mounds are not older than the tenth century B.C., though not necessarily any later.

The British School of Archaeology, following a class on the methods of excavation, is proceeding to Tantura (Dora) to conduct an instruction course, in accordance with a recent decision of the Council, arising from the present dearth of trained excavators. Four members of the American School attended the preliminary class which proved highly instructive and useful.

The French School of Archaeology is proceeding to Beit Jibrin with a view to clearing and preserving the splendid decorative mosaic pavement discovered there two years ago and excavating the surroundings. In collaboration with the Department of Antiquities a search will be made for other Phoenician tombs the presence of which is to be suspected.